WRL News

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WRL Stages Disarmament Actions in Moscow and Washington

by Van Zwisohn

Moscow demonstrators display banner reading "USA and USSR: Disarm Now!" before leaving for the Soviet Union. From left: Jerry Coffin, Norma Becker, Scott Herrick, Craig Simpson, David McReynolds, Patrick Lacefield and Steve Sumerford. Photo by Karl Bissinger.

Washington protestors unfurl banner in front of the White House. From left: Van Zwisohn, Grace Paley, Ralph DiGia, Cathy Carson, Gail Bederman, Warren Hoskins, Ed Hedemann, Karen Malpede and Glenn Pontier. Also arrested, but not pictured, were Linnea Capps Lacefield and Karl Bissinger. Photo by Karl Bissenger.

In the tradition of creative direct action combined with elements of a well-plotted thriller, the War Resisters League staged simultaneous demonstrations in Red Square, Moscow and at the White House, Washington, D.C., calling on the governments of both countries to take "bold initiatives" for disarmament, an end to the arms race, and recognition of human over military needs. Banners and leaflets were smuggled past guards, through searches and across borders. It was a Labor Day event that took the two cities by surprise.

On September 4, at 10:20 am Washington time and at 5:20 pm Moscow time, two independently recruited and organized groups of W.R.L. activists unfurled their large, banners and began distributing leaflets. In Washington, we had casually joined the line of tourists waiting for the holiday tour of the Executive Mansion, careful not to stand too close together. The banner was hidden in a picnic sack, the leaflets hidden cleverly in various places among us. Press had been alerted by prearranged signals and one of our number was stationed at the White House fence with a camera and telephoto lens. The tour began at ten and we went through the cursory search at the East Gate undetected.

It was difficult to go through the motions of being tourists; our minds and attentions were on a point twenty yards down the driveway where we would step across a low chain fence and walk quickly to the center of the sweeping front lawn with our red-white-and-blue banner reading NO

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Van Zwisohn is a member of the WRL executive committee.

GLOBETROTTING FOR WRL

by Craig Simpson

Five days of sitting on a bridge in London waiting for Sir Freddie Laker's Skytrain tended to dampen some of my enthusiasm for my trip in July to Europe for the WRI Council meeting. But now that I don't have to sleep on that bridge near Victoria Station in the rain and cold, the trip seems to have been successful, encouraging, and well worth the money WRL put out for it.

The adventure began upon arriving in London Monday morning at 6 a.m., after our flight was delayed for 14 hours in New York. The first meeting commenced at 9 a.m. Jet lag was setting in and I felt like a zombie as I greeted old friends and met new ones. Michael Schroeren of West Berlin filled me in on encouraging stories about East German draft resisters while my mind wandered off to thoughts of a nice warm bed and a shower. Jean Farbre, member of the International Collective Resistance and a French war resister, told me of the arrest, non-cooperation, trial, and subsequent release of Philippe Ballenghien, and Heinz Engel, WRL staff member, told me of his new 2-week-old daughter, Julie. Listening was difficult as my belly growled for a good breakfast and a tall, cool glass of milk.

The meeting began after War Resisters' International's roughest year in a long time...and ended with a direction to rebuild the International. Myrtle Solomon, warm and generous leader in the British pacifist movement for many years and chairwoman of WRI, laid out the problems the International is going through and the difficulties we faced over the week of meetings. Postponement of the Triennial, very high turnover of staff in the Brussels office, lack of a basic international program, then worst of all and probably the source of many of the Problems: NO MONEY.

A bleak picture for sure. But this was a gathering of pacifists from many countries throughout the world (mostly U.S. and Europe) who have been involved in the nonviolent movement and anti-militarist movement for years. All had a desire to keep an International and to support one another in creating a nonviolent world. As I looked around the large table of over 70 representatives and Council members assembled in this London hall I became encouraged. Pietro Pinna, first Italian Conscientious Objector and in the center of the large anti-military movement in his country, sat to my right taking notes. Across the way sat Ellen Elster from Norway, involved in the FMK and trying to build a program relating to women in the military. She became involved a few years ago at the International Gathering of Women in the Nonviolent Movement, and is rising in the leadership circles of WRI (if there is such a thing). Reading a newspaper to my left was Wim Jong from one of the Dutch branches who has been involved since the early days of WRI in the 1920's. David McReynolds was reading a Dutch mystery novel and Gerde Grune of the DFG-VK in West Germany whispered quietly to Jean Van Leirde, WRI treasurer and well-known pacifist from Belgium. Although most of us differed in style, approach, and perspective, we were all involved nationally and internationally with the common idea to end wars and the causes of war. That fact in itself was encouraging. Most of the Council meeting business dealt with the basic problems of the International: money (to which many alternative solutions were posed), staff, and running of the Brussels office and program. We decided to stay in Brussels and use Myrtle part-time until we could find and pay for a new full-time coordinator. We also plan to continue with the newsletter and encourage the future publication of the analytical journal **War Resistance** when we are solvent again.

Program is always the most exciting part of the meetings...when talks are given and proposals made and wrestled over in three languages (I'm hoping for the coming of a fourth—Spanish). The general discussion was frank and open. Many sections and individuals find it difficult to relate to international program because it took energy and time away from their present national and local focus. So to have a WRI program is difficult—it must have some relationship to national work. Proposals and discussion centered around a Brussels-to-Warsaw Peace Train for Disarmament (some thought it should be Warsaw-to-Brussels), an international campaign to support human rights in Vietnam, disarmament campaigns centered around the Mobilization for Survival, continuing program for support of the right of conscientious objection throughout the world with major support needed in Spain, Greece, Eastern Europe, South Africa, and Israel. Also there was discussion of peace conversion and civilian defense, a report on India and the nonviolent movement.

The meeting had its high points on several occasions (at least for me): an address by Lord Fenner Brockway, member of the British Parliament and first chairman of WRI on conscientious objection and war resistance; a report by Rita Maran of the Feminism and Noviolence Conference in California, the presence of South African conscientious objectors. But the highlight was a speech by Terry Moran, a shop steward at Lucas Aerospace, who has been working for many years to convert from military production to human need production—an inspiring and moving address.

It's difficult to write about results. David McReynolds, Ann Davidon and I all have different opinions on the way the meetings went. The International is at another low point in its history—as with most movement organizations—but the importance of the existence of an International seems to go without saying. To give support to those imprisoned or harassed because of their work to end war, the building of an international movement to end nuclear weapons,

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Craig Simpson is the WRL representative on the WRI Council.

Hiroshima and Rocky Flats

by Jim Peck

Last Hiroshima Day, I was at the most appropriate place in the world to be—Hiroshima (at the end of the annual Japanese peace walk).

This Hiroshima Day, I was at the most appropriate place in the U.S. to be—Rocky Flats, Colorado. Appropriate because, as I said from the platform, Rocky Flats is the most obscene installation in the country, outside of the Pentagon, itself. With plutonium from the East and West coasts, Rockwell International manufactures the triggers for every nuclear weapon made in the United States—3 to 10 a day. These triggers then are shipped to the Pantex plant in Amarillo, Texas, where they are affixed to the bombs.

I didn't speak long at the Hiroshima Day rally, in clear sight of the ugly, sprawling plant. I thought it more appropriate to sing to the 850 persons assembled, the song of the Hiroshima Walk, which I memorized in Japan. This—more than words—would put across the theme of the Japanese Walk: "No More Hiroshimas!" "No More Nagasakis!" As I stepped off the platform, a Japanese monk came over and hugged me. He didn't say anything. Clearly, he was moved to hear that song, in Japanese, sung on this awful plot of U.S. soil.

Speaking of soil, it already is highly contaminated with radiation. During negotiations over the site for the Hiroshima Day rally, someone from the peace groups suggested the east gate. "Oh, no," put in the Rockwell representative, "That would be too dangerous." Then, immediately, he caught his goof and added: "Please don't quote me, I was speaking off the record." By "dangerous" he was referring to the dry, radiated soil which, in a wind, might be fatally inhaled or swallowed around the east gate, which is **down-wind**. A number of the plant's workers have been victims of radiation, a fact which is little publicized.

Three days later was Nagasaki Day. Last Nagasaki Day, I participated in a vigil in front of the busy Shibuya subway station in Tokyo as the homebound crowds milled out. During the vigil, I sang the Japanese peace song.

This Nagasaki Day, I found myself singing it, for the second time at Rocky Flats, aboard a police bus hauling us away from a die-in, just inside the plant's west gate. Seventy-nine of us were arrested on trespassing charges exactly 28 minutes after the action started. The die-in began at 11:02 a.m., the exact time when the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki 33 years ago

Those of us who had not been busted previously at Rocky Flats were sentenced to 8 months unsupervised probation. Those for whom it was not the first arrest—including Daniel Ellsberg, Allen Ginsberg and 8 others—were taken to Jefferson County Jail to await trial. Bail for the 2 celebrities was set at $5000 and $15000 respectively. But since the Rocky Flats Truth Force group has taken a no-bail position, it made little difference.

Upon leaving court, Joe Stern and I went to a food market to buy some eats for the people camped up on the railroad tracks, where a continuous presence has been maintained since April 29, the date of the big, international protest rally inside the west gate. Joe and I sat down on the tracks with the others for a couple of hours, in solidarity. I was one of the 150 who first camped there April 29.

Jim Peck is editor of the WRL News.

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Actions

As WRL News goes to press we do not have a full count on total number of Hiroshima/Nagasaki actions across the nation. We **do** have information that confirms the 1978 actions were deeper, more intense than last year's.

Portland, Oregon...an August 9 Die-In. San Luis Obispo, California... 493 persons jailed from August 6 to 8 for protesting at the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant. 5000 demonstrators gathered at a nearby beach for a legal rally. Point Lepreau, New Brunswick (Canada)...protests at the nuclear power plant. Wiscasset, Maine... peaceful rally at Maine's only nuclear plant. Los Angeles, California...2000 marchers outside the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station. Newington, New Hanpshire...protestors appeared outside the 509th Bomb Wing, the unit which planes left in 1945 to bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Honolulu, Hawaii...a memorial ceremony attended by 50 persons, followed by a protest walk. Cambridge and Boston, Massachusetts... Hiroshima/Nagasaki walks, rallies, die-ins, and vigils involving hundreds. Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio...August 5 Hiroshima vigil.

And more...Washington, D.C.... August 7, nine people arrested while protesting the neutron bomb at Carter's church. Elkhart, Indiana...August 6 and 9, film showings of the destruction of Hiroshima. Bethlehem, Pennsylvania...A round-the-clock vigil August 6 through 9 in Bethlehem's Japanese Garden, closing with a Die-In. Dubuque, Iowa...August 6 memorial service and six hour vigil in front of the Catholic cathedral, 6000 leaflets distributed. Las Vegas, Nevada...August 6 and 7, vigil at federal building with car caravan to the Nevada Test Site. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania...August 6 through 9 actions in the "spirit of Sadako Sasaki," the Japanese child who began the folding of the paper cranes (and died of radiation sickness). New Haven, Connecticut...August 6/9 actions, starting with vigils and ending with a Die-In.

And more...Ranier, Oregon...206 arrested for civil disobedience at the Trojan nuclear power plant in the August 6/9 period. Tucson, Arizona...theatrical commemoration of the bombings. Chicago, Illinois...August 5, mass rally, August 6, memorial program. Philadelphia, Pa....three days of action, film showing demonstrations, vigil, leafleting. Austin, Texas...August 6 "Ceremony for

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The Middle East—A First-Hand Account

by Edna Coleman

It seems pretentious to add more words to the subject of the Middle East from one who has no claims to expert knowledge. But my February trip as part of a WILPF delegation left such deep impressions that I feel impelled to write this report.

It is impossible to report on all the meetings, discussions and visits and the hectic tempo of the trip. In Egypt we met with an attorney and two journalists, one on Sadat's proscribed list. All felt that Egypt's economic problems were paramount in forcing Sadat's openings for peace, though there was no agreement on their value. One argued that his trip aborted a Geneva conference and destroyed Arab unity (a concept not very operative in my view).

Although receiving a cable telling us to cancel our Lebanese trip, we voted after a call to Lebanon to go. At the American Consulate their concern was who would pay for the call! We never regretted our decision, despite the pain of seeing the destruction of Lebanon. This was one of the most stirring parts of our trip, hosted by a magnificent group of women in the WILPF chapter there. We visited the Samed workshops of Palestinians, a village school project, refugee camps, the bombed out village of Damour where refugees from Tel Zatar and Southern Lebanon were struggling to organize a new life with nursery, clinic and vocational training for the majority population of women.

From Beirut we drove a long way round, because of fighting, to Syria, arriving right after the national elections. We found Damascus plastered with flags and pictures of Assad, tremendous housing construction, and expansion of universities but in a context of militaristic authoritarianism exemplified in schools and in the response of a Women's Federation representative who, when asked if they could see a way of cooperating with those Israeli women searching for peaceful solutions, answered, "When our government tells us to, we will move that way."

Next we drove to Jordan, spending a day with some Palestinians, visiting refugee camps and vocational schools run by them. The schools are impressive, the camps as depressing as expected, with their overcrowding, lack of facilities, unemployment, low budgets for assistance, etc.

How to sum up the words, speeches, unspoken feelings, gut reactions of all the exposure throughout the trip. Despite hearing an occasional hard line expressed about Israel, another expression was overriding—the destruction of Israel is not possible, we must learn to live together, recognition or no, like Germany, Korea, France and Algeria. Wherever we went, among Arabs or Palestinians, the PLO was seen as the political expression of the Palestinians. The PLO itself being an umbrella organization has many voices. As I see it, the intransigence of Israel feeds the extremist positions in the PLO. Palestinians, often called the Jews of the Middle East because of their concern with education, have been trying to develop more independence from Arab countries, knowing they must rely on themselves. In the last few years, they have developed impressive self-help groups—viz. the Palestine Aid Society, Samed workshops in Beirut, others in Damour, Ramallah, colleges in Nablus and Ramallah. Howver one in Nablus and Ramallah. However one argues about roots of Palestinian nationalism, it exists, and just as Jewish nationalism developed and exists and is recognized, there can be no settlement in the Middle East without eventual recognition of Palestinian nationalism by Israel and its inclusion in any negotiations. As expressed by one Zionist, "If Jews could remember and talk about a homeland from 2000 years ago, why is it hard to understand Palestinian yearnings for a home of their own after thirty years of refugee or occupied status."

It is impossible to visit Yad Vashem, the moving memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, to see the physical configuration of Israel and not to understand the fears and anxieties of Israelis and their reaction to terrorism. But the controversial discussions of "security" nedd political solutions, not retreat to military solutions of increased arms and repression. After the difficulties of open, frank discussions in the U.S. Jewish community, it was refreshing to find the hotbed of discussion in Israel, in the press, organizations and the Knesset. It was heartwarming to meet with groups of Arab and Jewish women functioning on a human level to share their culture and problems and work for peace. The first meeting called by one group with posters in Haifa produced a meeting of 250 rather than the 30-40 expected.

It would seem to be a law of political life that occupying forces cannot only not be popular or accepted, but can only continue in that role at a cost to themselves. To us, this was the situation in the West Bank. It was painful as Jew to sit with faculty members at Bir Zeit University and hear of repressions by Israeli soldiers over-reacting to protests by Palestinian youths, including beating up kids both at home and in the streets, deportations, interrogations, arrests, old emergency laws from the British Mandate. As we heard from a Jew, "Occupation is spoiling my people." To hear Jews, themselves victims of Nazi oppression, say that Israel must do whatever is needed to maintain themselves, including savagery of Lebanon, is hard to bear. Politics of fear and hate cannot bring peace.

A most pleasurable aspect of the trip was meeting dynamic, energetic women all over playing more active roles in their societies—going to universities in greatly increased numbers—working for progressive legislation and building their organizations.

What will unravel the central "Catch 22" between Palestinians and Israelis? Israel says no negotiation until PLO cnanges its covenant—PLO says no change without Israel's willingness to negotiate with them, though many private statements, articles and Arafat's recent speech indi-

Edna Coleman is a member of the WRL Executive Committee.

cate readiness to move. Add the problems of petrowealth and control—arms sales—role of big powers—future of Lebanon now obviously tied to a solution of Palestinian-Israeli problem—all yields a stew hard to digest.

Problems are visible—questions are there for asking—there are wonderful people in all areas but solutions are hard to come by. It is difficult to overcome feelings of despair and frustration and hopelessness about more bloodshed before peace comes.

Hiroshima, continued from page 3

Survival" memorial service. Providence, Rhode Island...three day walk, August 6-9, thousands of leaflets distributed, rally in downtown Providence. New York City... 500 at August 6 memorial rally, 200 more take part in four day walk, August 6-10, beginning at the Indian Point nuclear power plant and ending with a Die-In at Con Edison in New York City. Rocky Flats, Colorado... 850 rally on August 6 against the nuclear bomb factory...on August 9, 79 are arrested, including WRL News editor Jim Peck. Shoreham, New York...40 people arrested while attempting to occupy the construction site of a nuclear power plant.

And more we cannot detail: Plattsburgh, New York; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Greenwood, Wisconsin; Omaha, Nebraska; Newark, New Jersey; Cleveland, Ohio.

And one knows you know because you were there, somewhere in the United States, taking part in this wave of protests, affirmations, and commemorations. And you were not alone. Even if you stood in the city square by yourself, you were at that dread hour of 8:15 a.m., August 6, 1978, standing with thousands of Americans in vigils all over the nation. And standing with tens of thousands of Japanese.

That America could do what it did on August 6 and 9 tells us something terrible about our nation and ourselves. That, 33 years later, the date lives in infamy because of Americans who refuse to forget and who seek to atone, also tells us something about our nation and ourselves. Hiroshima/Nagasaki—let the victims rest, this crime we shall not repeat.

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NUCLEAR WEAPONS! NO NUCLEAR POWER! US or USSR.

At 10:34 am, eleven people from the White House lawn were in Secret Service custody, the banner confiscated, and hundreds of startled tourists avidly reading the leaflets (an English version of the leaflet being distributed in Russia). At 5:30 pm Moscow time, the seven pacifists in Red Square had seen their Russian language banner (US and USSR—DISARM NOW!) ripped to shreds, their leaflets scooped up by Soviet police, and four of their number in police detention along with three newspeople and six innocent bystanders.

By Monday evening, these coordinated demonstrations, involving about 20 persons, two banners and 1,500 leaflets were in hundreds of newspapers, radio stations, and prime-time television news in Europe and in the United States. For a brief moment, the urgent call for disarmament, for the very survival of the living earth, had captured the imagination of people across the world.

Of the Moscow contingent which included Norma Becker, Jerry Coffin, Scott Herrick, Patrick Lacefield, David McReynolds, Craig Simpson, and Steve Sumerford, only four were even briefly detained and by nightfall, the entire group was together, joyfully celebrating their success. The eleven on the White House lawn: Gail Bederman, Karl Bissinger, Cathy Carson, Ralph DiGia, Ed Hedeman, Warren Hoskins, Linnea Capps Lacefield, Karen Malpede, Glenn Pontier, and I, spent thirty hours in jail and were released the following afternoon, some on their own recognizance and some, those not, mysteriously, from New York City, on bail pending a trial in October on charges of Unlawful Entry. This rather severe charge carries a penalty of up to a year in prison and substantial fines.

Wednesday afternoon, five days from the time the group had left for Moscow as tourists, we were reunited at JFK Airport, where wire service reporters and WBAI Radio were on hand for interviews and pictures. We were understandably very glad to see each other.

There were others directly participating too, and on whom the success of this action depended. Carl Rogers was our press coordinator and did a superb job of keeping the issues and the facts before the media. Linda Geary was our outside contact person in Washington and made sure communication among us was maintained. Mike Moran kept his camera clicking and prolonged the demonstration by begging the guards "just one more, just one more." Martha Thomases, Karen DiGia, Maris Cakars were on the phone in New York and it was through them that we learned in jail that the Muscovites were toasting each other in their hotel. Lynne Coffin did the thankless work of project coordination, vital to the success and safety of the participants, and suffered a brief hospitalization for exhaustion.

Further thanks must go to Pat Conroy and John Shields of the Community for Creative Nonviolence in Washington for their help and support at our arraignment, attorney Jim Klimanski for battling with the "criminal justice" bureaucracy, and T. Horn for providing a darkroom for processing our film and press photos.

The "dramatic moment" that will change the world's thinking about disarmament will come too late. That is, if the world's governments have their way unchallenged. While whole nations rock with the shock waves and perish in the firestorms, the cry will surely go up "NO MORE!" but by then of course it cannot be stopped. Too late is, tragically, too late.

Our movement, then, must *now* create dramatic moments for survival. Like the Continental Walk, like the rally last May, like the sit-in of June 12 and, most dramatically, the Moscow-White House demonstrations for disarmament. We of the War Resisters League particularly can serve to show what's at stake and what's at cause, performing visible, dynamic action, a colorful provocation on behalf of humanity's survival.

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NOMINATIONS SOLICITED FOR EXECUTIVE AND NATIONAL COMMITTEES

WRL members may nominate candidates for the executive and national committee. There will be 4 openings for the Executive Committee and 6 for the National Committee. Only persons in the New York City area should be nominated for the EC since they must be able to attend monthly meetings in this area. Members outside the New York City area may be nominated for the NC which meets twice a year. The person you nominate for the NC should come from your own area: West, Midwest, South or East. Please submit nominations to the national office by the November 1 deadline.

WRL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all the causes of war.

☐ I support this statement and wish to enroll as a member of the **War Resisters League.**

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ ZIP____

Send to: War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street
New York, N.Y. 10012

WRL NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The WRL National Committee will meet in Wilmington, Ohio at Wilmington College from October 6-8, 1978. There the Committee will discuss future WRL National Program and Task Force Committee Reports, among other items.

1978 WRL Organizers' Training Program; standing: Walter Goodman, Brian Willson, Ed Hedemann, Grace Hedemann, Pauline Bassett, Raili Cohen, Arnie Alpert, Meg Gage, John Dwyer holding Daniel; sitting: Nancy Tate, Paola Aiken, Nora Lumley, Dennis Dalton with Mathew on top, and Mary Hamilton. Photo by Walter Goodman.

WRL Training Program

by Meg Gage and Pauline Bassett

Perhaps the differences in this year's WRL Training Program for Organizers is indicative of some change in the times or perhaps it is just coincidence. This year the participants were older: they had a variety of organizing experiences already behind them; and the program was longer than ever—two weeks. This allowed for a slower pace, with lots of time for unscheduled discussion and detailed sharing of each others organizing experience.

Grace and Ed Hedemann orchestrated an exhaustive program of 43 sessions which took place at the Community for Nonviolent Action in Voluntown, Connecticut and in New York City. Sessions were facilitated by Grace and Ed, by visiting activists and sometimes by the trainees themselves.

Meg Gage and Pauline Bassett live in western Massachusetts and were participants in the 1978 Organizers Program.

At CNVA we dealt with theory and ideology of the nonviolent movement, and with technical and organizational skills.

During our nine days in Connecticut countryside we lived closely together, sharing cooking and chores, working in the garden, playing frisbee. This time together allowed us to become close as a group and to informally explore our beliefs, experiences and aspirations as they related to the training session. One ongoing theme running through our sessions was the conflict between reform and radical change. Some of us have worked hard for reforms, such as gun control laws and bottle bills, and feel such reforms make society stronger and more prepared for greater change. Others of us have not been able to work "through the system" at all and feel that such reforms are counter-productive because they only peck at the surface of the problem without changing anything underneath and that they give us a false sense of having done something. Some of us felt that civil disobedience

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was only one of many tactics to be used when working through legal channels has failed; others felt that it is a good tactic in itself, regardless of the context, that it is the only way to bring about permanent social change.

Another recurring discussion was about the relation of one's political work with one's private life. We all felt that it is vital to have a life style which is consistent with one's work and values, but just what they meant was not so obvious. Some of us felt that since right-living is impossible in this society, that too much concern for appropriate lifestyle can take away vital energy from political work which must precede a society where we can all live fairly together. Going off to a farm can be a cop-out if it takes you away from an engaged commitment to social change. But others felt that unless one's lifestyle makes complete sense,unless one can drive less, eat less, own less, travel less, phone less, then political activism is meaningless because it is hypocritical and can't relate to real people's lives.

After nine days in Connecticut we all went to New York City for the last six days of the program. In New York City we visited several specific projects and saw successful nonviolent organizing in action. With the nine days of bucolic community living behind us the group was able to survive the hectic pace, the subways, rushed meals and the brief brief personal encounters. One day we had five sessions, beginning at the United Nations and ending at a small political theater in Brooklyn, having visited the American Committee on Africa and the Catholic Worker on the way.

One of the most stimulating projects we visited was the People's Development Corporation in the South Bronx where we talked with Megan Charlop, one of the coordinators of the program and an alumna of the WRL Training Program a few years back. PDC is one of 18 "sweat equity" redevelopment projects in the city, where tenants invest "sweat" or their labor rather than money into their housing. Tenants take over abandoned buildings, take out loans for renovations and do the renovations themselves; using their own labor, costs are lower, so the mortgage to pay back the loan, and therefore future rents, are very low. One difference between this project and the other 17 around the city is that the tenants have maintained self-management over the buildings after they have been renovated, rather than handing them over to the city. The corporation has defined a nine block area and has plans for gardens, parks, community center and a Paris-style outdoor cafe. This summer the corporation is employing 300 people to do the exhausting and dangerous work of gutting buildings and putting them back together again.

We visited one renovated building which now houses 28 families. On the roof were five massive solar collectors which provide 80% of the building's hot water. In the basement was a garbage shredder and 1,000,000 earthworms in big beds of soil, happily chomping away on the garbage, producing top soil for the vegetable gardens out back. There was a community meeting room on the top floor and each landing of the building had bins for recycling glass and paper. The walls of the landings were painted with various colorful murals designed and painted by the individuals who live on those respective floors. The neighborhood has a cabinet shop which employs several apprentices; they will make the kitchen cabinets of the new apartments which gives them a guaranteed income for a year or so while they learn the trade. Next year the cabinet makers will run the shop commercially, selling their furniture as a local business, bringing new money into the neighborhood.

One of the frustrations of our stay in New York was that there was never enough time with each project. We had brief, stimulating visits to several other projects, including WIN Magazine, and left with handfuls of literature and lots of ideas, but we were unable to give them much careful thought until we got home.

Perhaps the most stimulating aspect of the program was the participants themselves. The twelve of us came from all over the East Coast and represented various organizations and interests. Our average age was around 30 and for the first time there were children attached to the program. Our discussions of Gandhian nonviolence were illuminated by Dennis Dalton, a professor at Barnard College. Because Dennis' background is in the theory of nonviolent action rather than the current practice of Gandhian nonviolence, he was able to challenge the rest of us and to compare our actions and campaigns to the way Gandhi acted in similar situations. And the rest of us were able to help him see ways of turning his theoretical understanding into action. We're expecting to see Dennis at future actions.

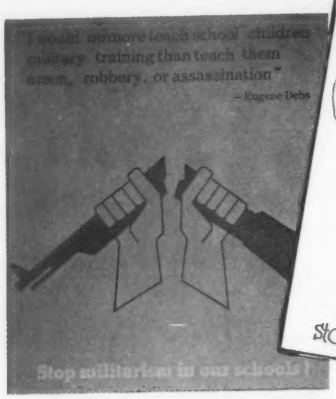
Brian Willson caught our attention with his work in the campaign to Stop the Olympic Prison (STOP). The Olympics are going to be at Lake Placid, N.Y. in February 1980. The only way they could finance the Olympic Village was to build something they could use afterwards, so they built a 500 bed federal youth prison which is where the athletes will stay for two weeks, after which it will become a youth prison for the next 100 years. We used Brian's campaign as a model in our session on campaign building, and as a result we have all become very interested in the whole issue of prisons. (Anyone interested in helping with the campaign can reach Brian at: STOP The Olympic Prison, New York State Council of Churches, 3049 East Genesee St., Syracuse, N.Y. 13224.)

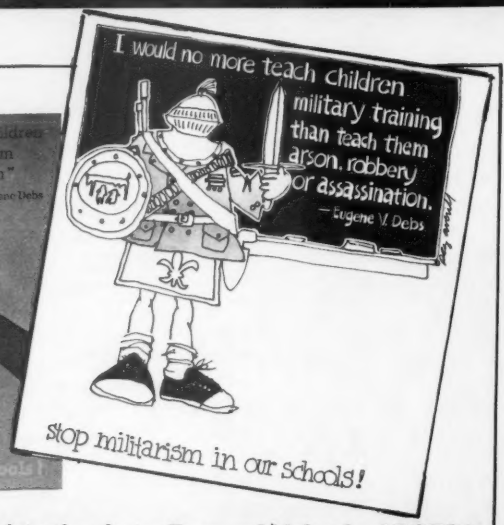
There were 10 other trainees, each with dynamic interests and lots of energy to share her/his concerns. There were four Clamshell trainers—who had never known each other before. Four were parents and one was about to become a parent. Nancy Tate works full time for her local peace group in Freemansburg, Pennsylvania. Two were public high school teachers, teaching in Naples, Florida and in Amherst, Mass., two very different kinds of public schools. Nora Lumley and Walter Goodman are photographers. Pauline Basset is a social worker. Paola Aiken is a youth worker. Raili Cohen works for her local alternative energy organization. Arnie Alpert is about to join VISTA. Thanks to the remarkable organization by Grace and Ed, and to the dynamic group of trainees, the program was inspiring and energizing, and a great way to spend a vacation.

TWO NEW COUNTER-RECRUITING POSTERS

"Broken Rifle"

"The Kid"


"I would no more teach school children military training than teach them arson, robbery, or assassination"
– Eugene Debs
Stop militarism in our schools!


I would no more teach children military training than teach them arson, robbery or assassination.
– Eugene V. Debs
Stop militarism in our schools!

The Indochina War may have ended, there may be no draft or registration, but college and high school ROTC is on the rise, recruiters have free access to schools, and militarism pervades in more subtle forms (e.g., history textbooks).

These provocative posters (designed by Peg Averill) make it clear where you stand and are appropriate for posting in your neighborhood schools.

☐ **Please send me_____"Broken Rifle" and _____"The Kid" posters at75¢ each (5-24 for 50¢ each, 25-49 for 45¢ each, 50-99 for 35¢ each, 100 and up for 25¢ each.). Enclosed is $_____plus 15% for postage.**

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Simpson, continued from page 2

the sharing of support and solidarity with nonviolent movements throughout the world. But in order to keep an internationalist spirit we as members of WRL and the nonviolent movement have to learn more about what our comrades are doing elsewhere. We have to share our ideas on what an International should look like and what it should be doing. In the past only a small number of people understood the workings of the International. That understanding is growing, but it needs your questions, your criticisms, your suggestions, and your participation.

After the Council meeting, I spent 3 weeks on borrowed money visiting the WRI office in Brussels, the IFOR in Alkmaar, Holland, and anti-military and anti-nuclear groups in northern Germany and Berlin. This contact with the grass roots nonviolent movement gave me a much more positive view of the need for an International—to share solidarity, information and friendship across national boundaries. Sitting in that Laker line for 5 days to get a flight back to the States wasn't a bad price to pay to see a hopeful future for the WRI.

WRL LOCALS

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